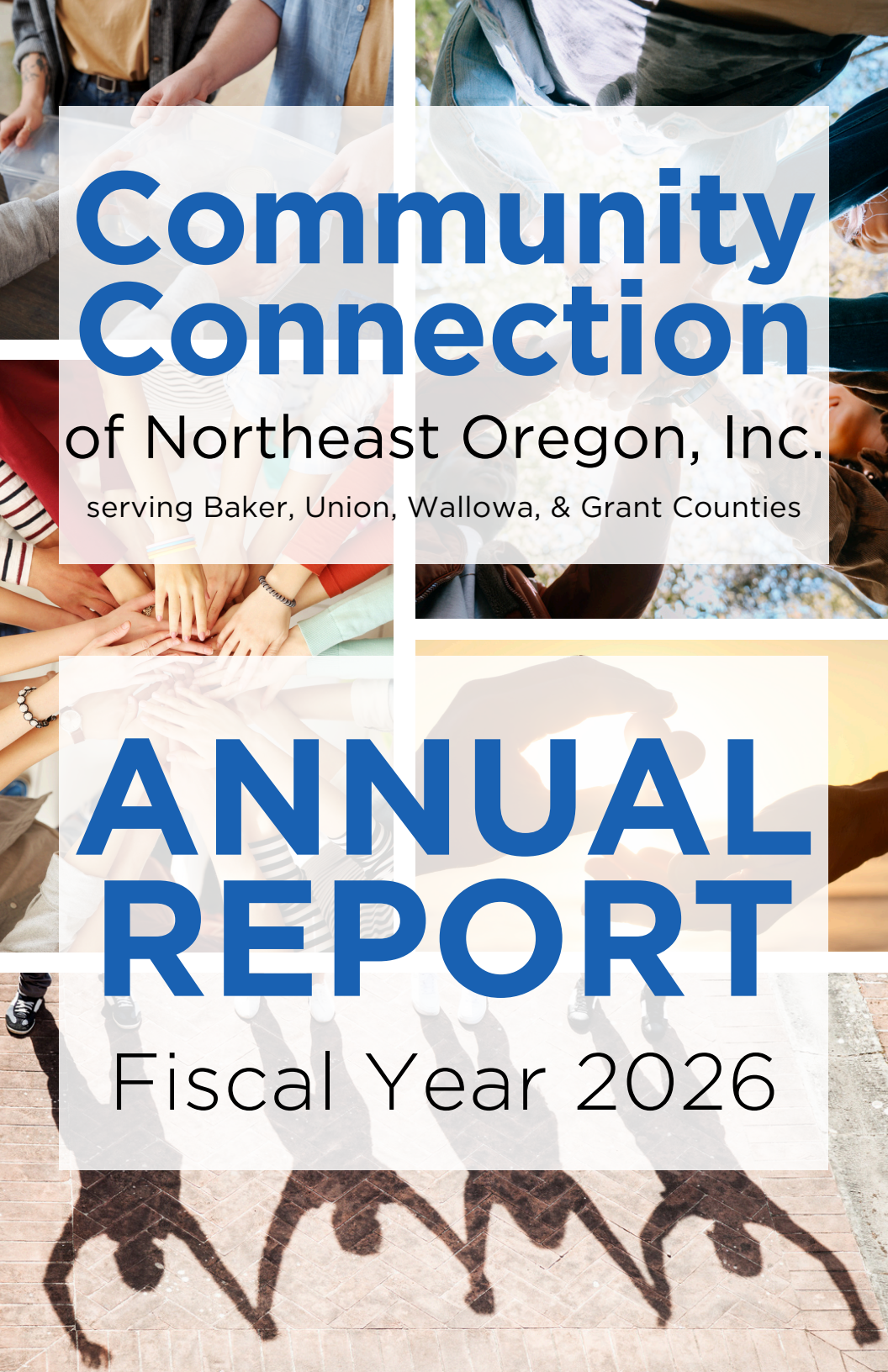


Community Connection

of Northeast Oregon, Inc.

serving Baker, Union, Wallowa, & Grant Counties

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2026



Table of Contents

Executive Director's Message **1**

About Us **3**

Programs & Impact

Low-Income Programs **5**

Programs for Everyone **11**

Senior Programs **15**

Community & Volunteers **21**

Board of Directors **22**

Financial Snapshot **23**

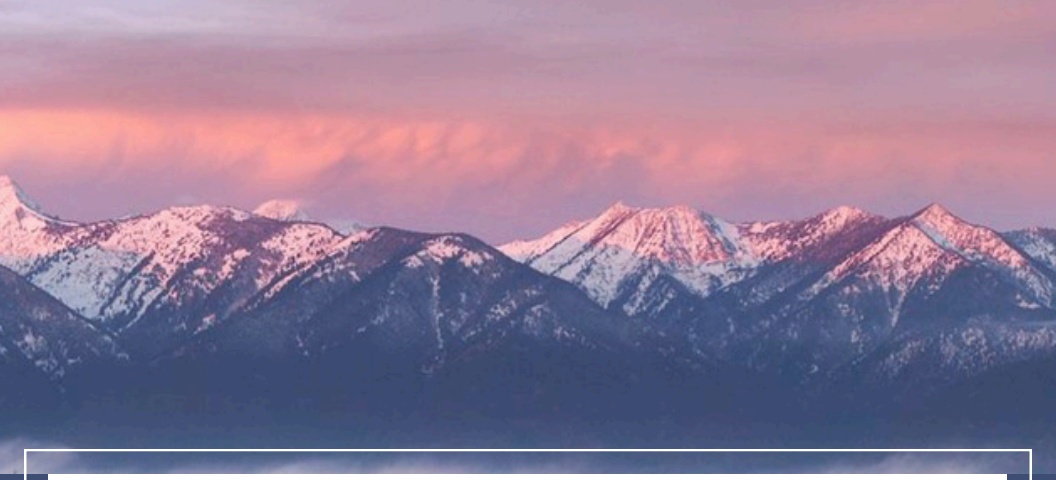


Executive Director's Message

Throughout Fiscal Year 2026, Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. remained steadfast in its commitment to advocating for and assisting individuals through personalized services and resources that promote stability. Our work continues to be guided by the agency's Core Principles: Integrity, Collaboration, Compassion, Community, Stewardship, Innovation, Professionalism, and Growth Mindset.

Our accomplishments are best reflected in the lives of the people we serve through energy and housing assistance, housing counseling, home purchasing support, weatherization, home care, and nutrition services. Whether we are helping families keep their homes warm, providing food, supporting older adults, or delivering meals, each service strengthens our commitment to the communities we serve and affirms the purpose of Community Connection.

Federal and state funding constraints tested Community Connection's resilience throughout the past year. In response, we sought additional support from new and existing local donors and redesigned services so we could focus available resources on the needs most critical to our community.



These challenges prompted innovation and growth in the way we deliver services, while the compassion and generosity of our community strengthened our ability to continue serving others.

I remain committed to supporting our staff by fostering professional growth, promoting work-life balance, and advocating for living wages. Our staff are the foundation of this agency, helping people and changing lives every day.

As Executive Director, I am proud of the work we accomplish each day and the positive impact we have on the communities we serve. I am grateful for the opportunity to guide the agency and support our staff as we build on our progress and move confidently into the future.

Respectfully,

Connie Guentert

Connie Guentert
Executive Director

Mission & Core Principles

The Mission of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. is to advocate for and assist people by providing pathways to stability with individualized services and resources.

Community
Connection with people by shared purpose, trust, & care.

Integrity
Acting with honor & respect, guided by ethics in all we do.

Collaboration
Working together across programs & partnerships to achieve shared goals through teamwork & accountability.

Compassion
Responding to others with empathy & understanding, turning care into meaningful action.

Growth Mindset
Embracing curiosity & practice to continue developing our skills & improving together.

Professionalism
Demonstrating our best in how we present, communicate, & deliver in every interaction

Stewardship
Actively safeguarding today's resources for tomorrow's community

Innovation
Exploring, adapting, & turning ideas into action that strengthens our mission

Locations

Baker County Senior Center
2810 Cedar St, Baker City, OR
(541) 523-6591

Union County Senior Center
1504 N Albany, La Grande, OR
(541) 963-7532

Wallowa County Senior Center
702 NW First St, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-3840

Grant County Office
520 E Main St, Ste 6, John Day, OR
(541) 620-3826

Union County Public Transportation
2204 E Penn, La Grande, OR
(541) 963-2877

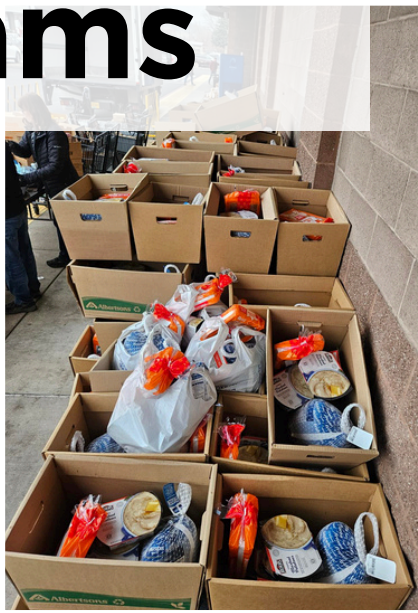
Regional Food Bank
10213 N McAlister Rd, Island City, OR
(541) 663-4551

Administration Office
2802 Adams Ave, La Grande, OR
(541) 963-3186



Low-Income Programs









Regional Food Bank

Helped individuals and families access essential groceries and worked to alleviate food insecurity. Ensured equitable food allocation throughout CCNO's service area through a network of food pantries, grocery programs, and produce sites.

123,211
Individuals
received assistance
**due to the low barrier nature of food pantries, there are duplicated counts*

We distributed

34,427
Produce Pickups
from Senior Centers and other sites

19,533
Food Boxes
from local food pantries

993,706 LBS.
of food, water, & toiletries

28% of all pounds were **Fresh Produce**

39% of all pounds were **Locally Sourced**



"I am so grateful to have the opportunity to be blessed by using the food bank. I live on a very limited income. Being able to have access to the food bank, it helps with the grocery bills. Thank you so much for offering this program; it truly blesses everyone. I know that I am forever grateful."

Weatherization

Provided households with long-term solutions for reducing heat waste and home energy costs. Weatherization repairs and upgrades improved indoor air quality and addressed health and safety issues of low-income households.

We completed projects for

16
Households

with a total of

33
Individuals

We provided

$580,314

to cover the cost of repairs and energy efficiency upgrades for eligible households

Before



After



Energy Assistance

Helped low-income households stay connected to essential utilities and provided stability when families needed it most. Prevented shutoffs and reduced utility-related debt. Helped to replace or repair household heating and cooling equipment.

We assisted

1,805
Households

with a total of

3,309
Individuals

$966,096
was distributed in energy assistance funds

19
Households
were assisted with the cost of repair or replacement to heating/cooling equipment

"I had been in the hospital for 3 weeks and when my caregiver took me home, I learned that my electricity had been shut off. I desperately needed my electricity for my oxygen tank and may not have survived the night without the electricity to operate the machine. My caregiver quickly went down to Community Connection to see if they could help get the elctricity on as soon as possible. Within 30 minutes, my electricity was back on, and I was so grateful and relieved."

Homeless Programs

Supported households who were literally homeless or at risk of homelessness through case management, wraparound services, and access to essential resources as they transitioned to safe, stable housing and worked toward long-term stability.

Homeless Prevention Programs

Assisted households facing eviction with past-due rent payments and temporary subsidized rental assistance to ease immediate financial pressure and allow participants to regain stability.

We assisted

80
Households

with a total of

144
Individuals

Rapid Rehousing Programs

Helped literally homeless individuals and families obtain housing through assistance with security deposits and temporary rental payments while they worked towards self-sufficiency

We assisted

158
Households

with a total of

348
Individuals



"I lived on the streets for over two years, until Community Connection helped me to get my own place at Veteran's Village. Since moving in, I have been able to manage my health issues and get a caregiver. This is the happiest and healthiest I have been in a long time."

Emergency Shelter Programs

Provided households in crisis with immediate, temporary shelter during our coldest months through motel placements.

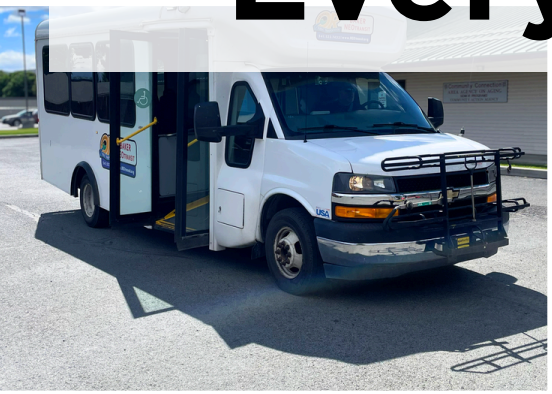
We assisted
113 Households
with a total of
175 Individuals

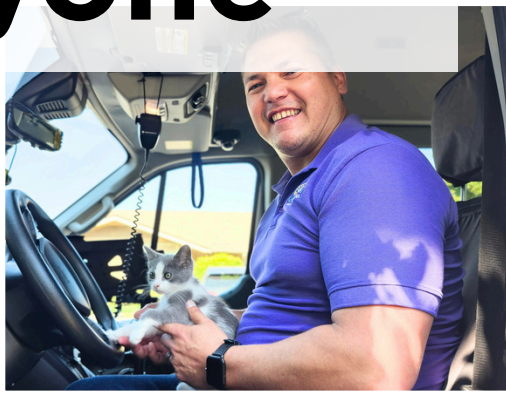
We distributed
$76,116
in emergency shelter vouchers





Programs for Everyone







Transportation

Provided seniors, persons with disabilities, and members of the public with rides to their jobs, schools, grocery stores, banks, medical appointments, and other destinations.

We provided a total of
64,218
Rides

Demand Response services transported
6,201
Passengers

Our buses traveled
401,597
Miles

33%
were for
Seniors

16%
were for
People with Disabilities



"They get you where you need to go and make sure you get back home safely. The people are very nice and easy to talk to. I would give their service a 10-star rating! I am very thankful for what they do for people who don't have vehicles. Their help makes a big difference, and I truly appreciate everything they do."

Housing Rehabilitation

Provided no-interest loans to low- and moderate-income households for accessibility accommodations and repairs to roofs, foundations, electrical systems, and more.

We completed projects for

6
Households
with a total of
9
Individuals

As property ownership changes

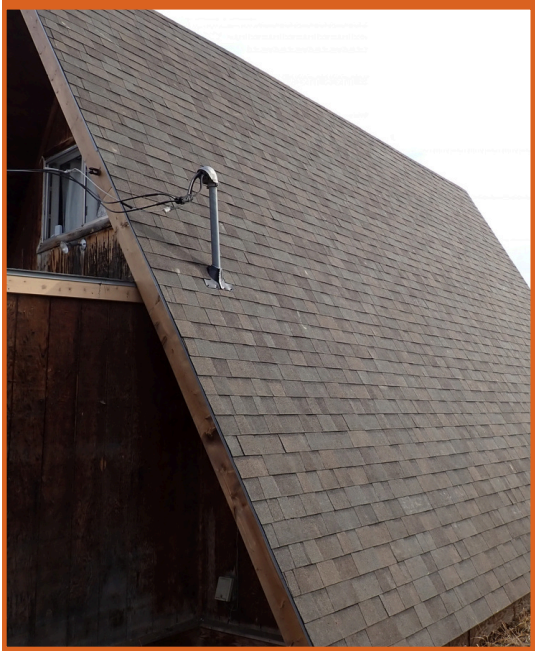
143 Loans

will be reinvested into the revolving loan fund for long-term program sustainability.

Before



After



Housing Resource Center

Helped households achieve homeownership, avoid foreclosure, and build long-term financial stability. Provided forgivable down payment loans, matched savings accounts (IDAs), personalized homebuyer and foreclosure avoidance counseling, and free online workshops.

292
Individuals
benefited from housing counseling services

$324,000
was distributed to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments & closing costs



52
First-Time Homebuyers
participated in our programs

10
Participants
purchased a home this year

"I am now in my second and final IDA through CCNO, and I can't wait to see how this program supports my financial and life goals....The IDA program is a no-brainer for me, and I am very glad that there are organizations that work together in Oregon to make something like this exist."





Senior Programs





In-Home Care

OPI, OPI-M, & OPI VHC programs assisted individuals and veterans over the age of 60 and adults living with physical disabilities with activities of daily living, including assistance with mobility, grooming, food preparation, shopping for essentials, and more.

160
Individuals
received care through **OPI & OPI-M** programs

36
Veterans
received care through our **OPI VHC** program

Family Caregiver Support

Persons caring for an individual over 60 or with Alzheimer's and older relatives caring for a child under 18 or an adult with disabilities were offered assistance, including equipment, minor home modifications, individual counseling, and respite care.

We provided
206
Hours
of respite care

13
Family Caregivers
benefited from respite care

"Caregiving is hard and to be able to get away for just a bit does wonders. I didn't realize how stressed I was. Thank you so very much!"

Congregate Meals

Provided nutritious meals and gave seniors the opportunity for social interaction by providing a place to meet friends, play cards and bingo, dance, etc. Lunches were served 16 times a week at CCNO's 4 meal sites and 4 times a week at 3 contracted meal sites in Grant County.

42,652 Meals
were served to
1,143 Adults Over 60



7,565 Meals
were served to
452 Volunteers & People Under 60

"Our mealsite gives me the opportunity to socialize with other people my age...friends and neighbors. Isolation isn't good for people's mental health and I think that people eat better when they eat with someone else, rather than eating alone. The meals are wonderful and the staff are so friendly and welcoming. I look forward to going to our center as often as possible."

Home-Delivered Meals

Volunteers and staff delivered nutritious meals to home-bound seniors, helping them maintain independence and remain in their own homes. Regular meal deliveries ensured seniors had reliable access to healthy meals, provided an opportunity for face-to-face interaction, and allowed drivers to monitor the well-being of recipients.

71,146
Meals
were
delivered to
556
Seniors & Adults with Disabilities

"I really love seeing the faces of everyone who delivers to me. It's a joy to see them every day. The meals are great, and they help me stay on a plan, but it's really seeing their faces every day that brings me joy."



Volunteers
donated
3,137
Hours
and drove
30,681
Miles
to deliver
meals

Senior Center Services

As an Area Agency on Aging (AAA), CCNO provides a comprehensive and coordinated range of services, making it possible for each senior to participate in the services of their choice.

Recreation

8,330 Activities
such as card games, dances, billiards, & bingo brought together
1,303 Individuals
*duplicated

Information & Assistance

We responded to
17,046 Requests
for information on available services from
3,876 Individuals
*duplicated

Outreach & Newsletters

1,585 social media posts, newsletters, & presentations reached
97,701 People
duplicated

Health Programs

Health clinics, group exercise classes, & medical equipment loans benefited
762 Seniors

Legal Aid Referral

Referred **6 Seniors** & **12 Low-Income Individuals** to Oregon Law Center & Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Telephone Reassurance

Checked on the health & well-being of **52 Seniors** a total of **252 Times** to determine if they needed additional assistance

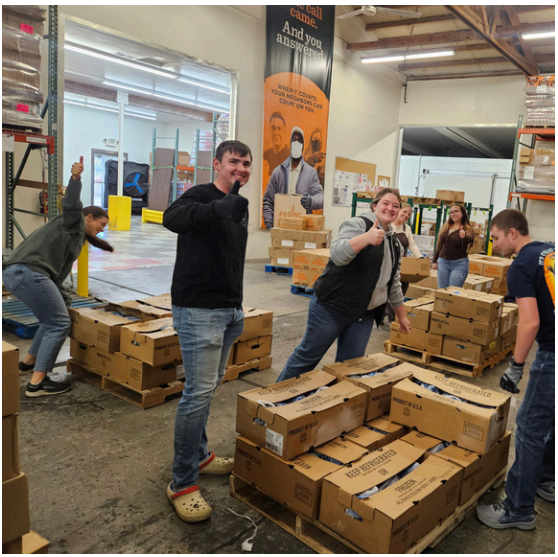


"I come to the Senior Center every day because it is my home away from home. So many friends are here, and I fill my days enjoying the activities like playing cards, line dancing, or bingo in the afternoon."



Community & Volunteers

Community Connection would not be able to do the impactful work we do without the generous help of our volunteers. Community members who donate their time to home-delivered meals, help at congregate meal sites, serve on our Board of Directors and Advisory Councils, and so much more broaden our ability to serve. We could not be more grateful. Thank you!



Volunteers donated

18,603

Hours

of their time





Board of Directors
Fiscal Year 2026

Scott Myers - *Chair*
Grant County

Matt Scarfo - *Vice-Chair*
Union County

John Hillock - *Secretary*
Wallowa County

Michelle Kaseberg - *Treasurer*
Baker County

Barbara McCormack
Wallowa County

Dan Seaman
Union County

Jane Dunn
Wallowa County

JulieKay Dudley
Union County

Elsie Pellissier
Baker County

Mitch Wilson
Grant County

Financial Snapshot

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Support & Revenue | $12,038,538

Grants, Awards, & Contracts	$ 9,619,549
In-Kind Goods & Services	$ 1,152,577
Contributions	$ 525,378
Program Fees	$ 424,622
Other	$ 280,584
Fundraising	$ 35,918

Functional Expenses | $11,462,553

*includes Administrative Expenses ---- $883,751
Fundraising Expenses ---- $ 917

Senior Nutrition & Home Care	$ 2,405,118
Transportation	$ 2,236,544
Food Bank	$ 1,689,131
Emergency Asst. & Self-Sufficiency	$ 1,587,808
Weatherization & Rehab	$ 1,275,154
Energy / Utility Assistance	$ 1,290,890
In-Kind Goods & Services	$ 1,152,577
Housing Resource Center	$ 460,164
Community Services	$ 209,276
General Fund, Bldg Exps, Cost Pools	$ (-22,856)

Change in Net Assets

FY26 Start	$ 10,185,647
FY26 End	$ 10,105,876

FY 26 | ANNUAL REPORT

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.

Serving Baker, Union, Wallowa, & Grant Counties

Community Connection is a proud member of

Helping People. Changing Lives.
community Action®
PARTNERSHIP
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

USAging

CCNO

CommunityConnectionNEO

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Community Connection is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer